

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2145

To prohibit the United States Government from barring refugees from entering the United States based on their country of origin.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To prohibit the United States Government from barring refugees from entering the United States based on their country of origin.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “No Ban on Refugees
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) An individual's country of origin is unlikely
2 to be an indicator of his or her threat to the security
3 of the United States.

4 (2) Since 1980, there has not been a single le-
5 thal terrorist attack in the United States that was
6 committed by a refugee.

7 (3) The United States accepts the most vulner-
8 able refugees for resettlement, the vast majority of
9 whom are women and children.

10 (4) The need for stable countries willing to wel-
11 come refugees has never been greater. The United
12 Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
13 has reported that the level of forcibly displaced peo-
14 ple worldwide is "the highest since the aftermath of
15 World War II".

16 (5) Refugees are, by definition, fleeing insecure
17 or war-torn countries, such as Syria, Afghanistan,
18 South Sudan, Somalia, and Yemen.

19 (6) The refugee vetting process involves at least
20 8 United States Government agencies and does not
21 rely primarily on information provided by the refu-
22 gees' countries of origin.

23 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION.**

24 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no agen-
25 cy or instrumentality of the United States Government

1 may prevent a refugee (as defined in section 101(a)(42)
2 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
3 1101(a)(42))) from entering the United States based on
4 the refugee's country of origin.

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